

Message Text

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ACTION SMI-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 686

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OSCI, PK

SUBJ: SMITHSONIAN SFCP/UNIVERSITY PENNSYLVANIA/UNIVERSITY
ISLAMABAD - DR. GREGORY POSSEHL PROJECT

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED OFFICIAL LETTER FROM GOP ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION APPROVING UNIVERSITY PENNSYLVANIA/UNIVERSITY ISLAMABAD RESEARCH PROJECT ON ORIGINS INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION WITH PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR DR. GREGORY POSSEHL, UN. PA. MINISTRY EDUCATION HAS ALSO APPROVED. UPON INQUIRY EMBASSY HAS DETERMINED THAT DR. GREGORY POSSEHL, MR. LOUIS FLAM, DR. JOHN W. WHITNEY LISTED IN PROPOSAL HAVE BEEN INDIVIDUALLY APPROVED. THESE ACTIONS CONSTITUTE FULL GOP APPROVAL.

2. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY TO CONFIRM THAT PROJECT WILL BE FUNDED THROUGH SMITHSONIAN SFCP. THEY MENTION LEVEL OF FUNDING AT \$96,200, WHICH IS TOTAL LISTED ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM LOCAL SOURCE THAT THERE HAS BEEN REVISION OF INITIAL REQUEST AND SOMEWHAT LOWER AMOUNT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION SUM NOW APPLICABLE NOR IF, IN FACT, THIS PROJECT IS BEING CONSIDERED ACTIVELY BY SMITHSONIAN SINCE EARLIER INDICATIONS WERE THAT GOP WOULD NOT APPROVE.

3. EMBASSY HAS NO IDEA WHY THERE HAS BEEN APPARENT CHANGE OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS DR. POSSEHL EXCEPT THAT BOTH VICE CHANCELLOR AND DR. A.H. DANI, UNIVERSITY ISLAMABAD HAVE BEEN WORKING DILIGENTLY TO IMPLEMENT EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES WITH UNIVERSITY PA. VICE CHANCELLOR CAN BE VERY PERSUASIVE AND SHE HAS BEEN

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ABLE TO PREVAIL OVER PERSONS (UNKNOWN TO US BUT SEEMINGLY INFLUEN-

TIAL) WHO HAVE BEEN OPPOSING APPROVAL POSSEHL.

4. WILL APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND SMITHSONIAN GUIDANCE
ON WHAT INFORMATION WE SHOULD CONVEY TO GOP AND UNIVERSITY
ISLAMABAD. NOW THAT APPROVAL HAS BEEN SECURED WE RECEIVING
MANY INQUIRIES WHEN PROJECT WILL BEGIN.
LUPPI

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